

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00820 101432Z

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03

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FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2968

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, ET

SUBJECT: ERITREA - TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS RECEIVED BY THE CONGEN ON 10 OCT.
FROM VICE MINISTER SOLOMON TECLE OF THE MIN OF FOR AFF.

QUOTE

TO ALL THE CONSULAR CORPS
IN ERITREA

DEAR SIRS,

IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT MEMBERS OF CONSULAR CORPS HAVE
LATELY BEEN TRAVELLING IN AREAS WHICH HAVE BEEN DECLARED EMER-
GENCY AREAS, AND WHICH COME UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MILITARY
AUTHORITIES WITHOUT ANY PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO THE CONCERNED
AUTHORITIES.

WE WOULD THEREFORE REQUEST ALL MEMBERS OF CONSULAR CORPS IN
ERITREA TO NOTIFY THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS WHENEVER INTENDING TO
MAKE SUCH TRIPS IN THE FUTURE.

WE WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS FORMALITY IS
IN NO WAY INTENDED TO IMPOSE A LIMITATION TO THE FREEDOM OF MOVE-
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PAGE 02 ASMARA 00820 101432Z

MENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSULAR CORPS, ITS SOLE PURPOSE IS TO

PROVIDE FOR THEIR SAFETY IN VIEW OF THE PARTICULAR SECURITY SITUATION PREVAILING IN SUCH AREAS.

YOUR CO-OPERATION ON THE MATTER WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED.

SINCERELY,

K. SOLOMON TEKLE
VICE MINISTER

END QUOTE

2. COMMENT: EMERGENCY AREAS INCLUDE ALL OF ERITREA EXCEPT PORTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS: HAMASIEN (ASMARA), SERAE, AND AKELE GUZAIE. ROADS FROM ASMARA TO ADDIS ABABA VIA GONDAR OR MEKLE ARE NOT INCLUDED IN EMERGENCY AREAS. HOWEVER, ROADS LEADING TO BOTH KEREN AND MASSAWA ARE IN THE EMERGENCY AREAS. IT APPEARS THAT THE ERITREAN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IS ADMITTING ITS INABILITY TO CONTROL THE PROVINCE AND IS WORRIED THAT A MEMBER OF THE CONSULAR CORPS MAY BE KIDNAPPED AND CREATE AN EMBARRASSING SITUATION.

3. THE CONGEN RETAINS BAN ON OFFICIAL AMERICANS' ROAD TRAVEL IN ERITREA. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY PERTINENT INFO FROM TENNECO DEBRIEFING, AS REQUESTED IN ASMARA 752.
SHERRY

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